

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W
-----030714 181538Z /53

P 181517Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3284
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USMTN
ACTION STR PASS ELECTRICALLY
STR PASS CODEL

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: MTN, ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: JAPAN PROPOSES MULTILATERAL PRESENTATION OF
TARIFF NEGOTIATION RESULTS

1. JAPANESE DELEGATION (ABE, KUJIRAI, TAKAGAWA) CALLED
ON USMTN DELEGATION (MCNAMARA) AUGUST 17 TO PROPOSE,
UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM TOKYO, THAT KEY MTN COUNTRIES
AGREE ON STANDARD METHOD OF PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF
INDUSTRIAL TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS. ABE SAID GOJ ANTICIPATES
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AT CONCLUSION OF MTN, DIRECTED AT
JAPANESE PUBLIC, BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND DIET, DESCRIBING
WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED AND THEREFORE HOPES AGREEMENT CAN
BE REACHED ON "OBJECTIVE FIGURES."

2. JAPAN BELIEVES THAT SUCH DATA WOULD RELATE PRIMARILY
TO AVERAGE DEPTH OF CUT AND BEFORE AND AFTER AVERAGE
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TARIFF RATES FOR EACH OF THE KEY COUNTRIES. CALCULATIONS
WOULD BE DONE BY THE GATT SECRETARIAT. ABE STRESSED
THAT THIS WORK SHOULD NOT BE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE ACTUAL
NEGOTIATING PROCESS. (COMMENT: WE INTERPRET THIS TO MEAN
THAT JAPAN RECOGNIZES THAT METHOD OF CALCULATION AND
RESULTING DATA FOR SUCH A PUBLIC PRESENTATION MAY NOT BE
ACCEPTABLE TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES.

END COMMENT.)

3. MCNAMARA RESPONDED THAT SUCH A MULTILATERALLY-AGREED EXERCISE COULD BE USEFUL, BUT NOTED THAT DIFFERENCES AMONG COUNTRIES ABOUT SUCH ISSUES AS BASE RATES, DUTIABLE ONLY OR DUTIABLE AND DUTY FREE, BASE YEARS, DEFINITION OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, EXCLUSIONS, ETC. COULD BE SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE DISPUTE AND WASTE ENERGIES ON UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO AGREE ON METHODOLOGY FOR CALCULATING AVERAGES WHEN ENERGIES COULD BE BETTER DEVOTED TO ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE NOTED THAT TECHNICAL GROUP WHICH CREATED GATT TARIFF STUDY COULD NOT AGREE ON METHODOLOGY FOR CALCULATING A SINGLE AVERAGE TARIFF; AS A RESULT GATT TARIFF STUDY USES EIGHT DIFFERENT AVERAGES.

4. ABE AGREED TO OUR SUGGESTION THAT JAPANESE DELEGATION PROVIDE US WITH AN INFORMAL PAPER FLESHING OUT THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL. THIS PAPER WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO WASHINGTON WHEN RECEIVED. MCNAMARA

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Message Attributes

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